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Impacts of The Cuban Revolution

In 1952, Cuba was ruled by a dictator named Fulgencio Batista. Under Batista's dictatorship, citizens of Cuba faced high rates of unemployment and very poor conditions. There was great conflict happening in Cuba during this time. This conflict eventually led to change: The Cuban Revolution. In 1959, Fidel Castro seized power of Cuba. He eventually declared Cuba a communist state.

There were immediate impacts of the Cuban Revolution. Military and government workers who were loyal to Batista were either exiled, executed, or imprisoned. Initially, the new government was progressive. There were improved education policies and improved healthcare. However, in 1960 Castro actively pursued communist ideals. Civil rights were severely restricted. All land, businesses, farmland, and factories became property of the state. Media outlets were shutdown, and even churches were closed.

There were also some long-term impacts of the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban Revolution inspired some other countries in Latin America, like Chile and Nicaragua, to have their own political revolutions. In addition, Cuba made strong alliances with the Soviet Union, which brought conflict with the United States. Lastly, over 500,000 Cuban citizens migrated to the United States because of the conditions after the Cuban Revolution.

Cuba and the United States have had a complicated relationship. Even though conditions for citizens were poor in Cuba during Batista's rule, its relationship with the United States was friendly. The U.S. was especially invested in Cuba's sugar industry. The turning point in Cuba's relationship with the U.S. happened once Castro took over and alliances were made with the Soviet Union. The U.S. placed embargos on Cuba. This eliminated trade between Cuba and the U.S. The relationship between Cuba and the U.S. got even more complicated when Castro allowed Khrushchev, the Soviet Union's leader, to build a missile launching pad and a house for missiles on the island. This was a major threat to the United States because Cuba is only 90 miles away. This was called the